

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has previously been distributed to [[all]] a plurality of users within a predetermined time period, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

2. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said time period is one from a predetermined time point to a current time point.

3. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said time period is a definite term from a predetermined time point.

4. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said time period is one from an optionally set time point to a current time point.

5. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said time period is one from a first optionally set time point to a second optionally set time point.

6. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said time period is a definite term from an optionally set time point.

7. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said time period is a definite term down to the current time point.

8. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
said time period is one until an optionally set time point.

9. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein  
when said number of times of distribution reaches a previously set number of times or more, said amount of money billed for said information is raised.

10. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein

when said number of times of distribution reaches a previously set number of times or more, said amount of money billed for said information is reduced.

11. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein

said amount of money billed for said information is determined depending on a value obtained by substituting said number of times of distribution for a previously set function.

12. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein

said information is audio information, video information, game information or book information, or any combination of them.

13. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1, wherein

said information is distributed by using wireless communication or wired communication.

14. (Currently Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, characterized in that an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined in a composite manner depending on respective numbers of times that said information has previously been distributed to ~~[[all]]~~ a plurality of users in a plurality of set terms, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

15. (Currently Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, characterized in that a receiver selects at least one term of a plurality of set terms and an amount of money billed to a user each subsequent time said information is distributed to said user is determined depending on the number of times that said information has previously been distributed to ~~[[all]]~~ a plurality of users in said selected term, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

16. (Currently Amended) An information distributing method for distributing information subjected to billing in an information distributing system, comprising the steps of:

- distributing said information to a user;
- counting the number of times said information is previously distributed to [[all]] a plurality of users; and
- controlling a billing system for billing an amount of money for a next subsequent distribution depending on the number of previous distributions counted, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

17. (Previously Presented) The information distributing system according to claim 16, wherein

- the counted distribution number is compared with a reference value.

18. (Currently Amended) A transaction method to control a billing system for information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

- counting a number of previous distributions of said information to [[all]] a plurality of users; and
- controlling a billing information for billing an amount of money for a next subsequent distribution depending on a counted number of previous distributions, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

19. (Previously Presented) The transaction method according to claim 18,  
wherein  
said step for controlling a billing information includes a step for comparing said  
counted number of distribution with a reference value.

20. (Currently Amended) A transaction system to control a billing system for  
information to be distributed, comprising:

a means for counting a number of previous distributions of said information to  
[[all]] a plurality of users; and

a means for controlling a billing information for billing an amount of money for a  
next subsequent distribution depending on a counted number of previous distributions, each said  
amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is  
distributed.

21. (Previously Presented) The transaction system according to claim 20, wherein  
said means for controlling a billing information includes a means for comparing  
said counted number of distribution with a reference value.

22. (Currently Amended) A transaction method to control a billing system for  
information to be distributed, comprising the steps of:

counting the number of times that a content is previously distributed to [[all]] a  
plurality of users during a predetermined time period, [[all]] a plurality of users being billed at  
the time of distribution for an amount of money of said content;

charging said amount of money to be billed to [[all]] a plurality of users for a next subsequent distribution of said content based on the result of counting of said previous distributions; and

billing [[all]] a plurality of users for said charged amount of money of said content when said content is subsequently distributed to [[all]] a plurality of users after said charging of the amount of money, each said amount of money billed being determined independently for each time said information is distributed.

23. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 1,

wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.

24. (Previously Presented) The information distributing method according to claim 16,

wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.

25. (Previously Presented) The transaction system according to claim 20, wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.

26. (Previously Presented) The transaction method according to claim 22, wherein said amount of money billed for subsequent distributions of said information is automatically altered each time said distribution reaches predetermined distribution thresholds associated with said number of times said information has previously been distributed.